Bowling Green Jan 28th 1849

Dear Brother,

I got your letter from the office about 20 minutes ago, & have just finished reading it. I am very glad to hear that you are all well, & kicking about as usual. You say Father thinks of getting married. Who under the sun is he after? I suppose he is lonesome, & thinks he will derive some comfort from the society of a wife. But if he should get married & get a bad woman, it would be far worse for him.

You say you have no news to write. I have about 2000 questions to ask, so that next time you write, you can write some news. How do Frank Sanford & Ellen get along? Charles Ford & Cook, & Rob Simson & Emma? & also Ben Field & Emily. How do they all get along. You said in your other letter that A Frost had married C Cook, who is C Cook? I would like to know how these fellows & their wives get along just to satisfy my curiosity, nothing more. You know that any information about Cornwall people is most pleasing to me. that is, if it is good information, good or bad, I would like to hear all the news about them. To-day is Sunday, & the last bell is just ringing for meeting, so I must go to meeting & leave the rest of this letter till afternoon.

Well. I have been to church & just returned. The text was in Corinthians. 9th chap & 24th vers. A good sermon, but not quite as good as you get in old Vermont. I would like to go to church in old Vt. at once more, but I believe I shall not very soon.

I received a letter this morning from R. E. Maranville, an old classmate in Middlebury. he lives in East Poultney. He has a notion of coming down here & wants I should find him a place.

You say I must steal a nigger & sell him if the Cholera comes here & I can get money no other way. Stealing niggers is bad blising. I presume there will no need of this, as there is no Cholera here now, & when it does come, if it comes at all. I hope I shall have a plenty of money collected from teaching.

You also say that Reuben talks of going to Ohio if Father does not let him have the farm. It seems to me that it would be unwise for Father to sell his farm. Still I dont know. If Reuben should go to Ohio, I would like to know when & to what place he will go. I, perhaps, may go up there during the sickly season here next summer. about the last of August or first of September.

You also say. that you cannot tell how long you will remain where you are. Where do you expect or want to go? You will not go to Ohio also will you? I believe the Rimeks have got the Old Harry in them. Not one of them is ever contented to stay where he is, if he is ever so well off. They have got the Spirit of the wandering Arabs. As for myself. I am not contented any where. What little traveling I have done, has given me a desire to travel more. & I am uneasy that I am obliged to stay here for even so short a time. Let me get some money & get started again & I will go to the ends of the earth if I can find them.

I tell you what Bill. I would like to be up there & go a fox hunting with you once more. How we used to go it, hunting & fishing was all we cared for, rain or shine it made no difference, only we thought it was a little better if it snowed or rained enough to drown us. Don't have any snow here of any consequence. It has been raining nearly every day for three or four weeks past. Blast me if I had not rather live in snow up to my eyes the year round than to have it rain all the time as it does here.

Julia. Pepper. just that little seal "take care" on the outside of your letter. I don't know but she read something in my letter that I ought not to have written, but I mistrust that was not the whole reason. She wanted to give me a little advise in the shortest & best manner. & I believe she chose the two most expressive words in the English language. A great deal of meaning in those two little words "take care". Tell her I thank her for her advice & will "take care". How is Clarissa's health? has she got the "hypo" yet, if she has, tell her to "flax" around & tear her "shirt" & she will get over it. So Livonia at school now? she ought to be. Tell Reuben & Mary Ann, if they go west I will try & make them a visit next summer. I most hope they will. Tell Father if he wants to get married, he better court up Sally or Anna Foot. I think they would make pretty lusty wives for such a young man as he is. I suppose Uncle Daniel & Uncle Syler are on earth yet. Uncle Daniel I hope, will live long enough to go through another "revolution".

If I have omitted any thing in this letter, just tell me when you write, & do you write soon. I am just as healthy as a bear. May the four greatest Generals ever known rule over you all. General Providence General Health, General Peace & General Prosperity

Your affectionate brother Steve